

City undaunted by Cup heroics of Wycombe

By LINDA SPURR

OXFORD CITY were doing well at the White House Ground this afternoon in holding FA Cup heroes Wycombe Wanderers to a goalless first half in an Isthmian League, Division 1, fixture.

Oxford City: Harris, Cooper, Glass, Woodley, Barr, Hartigan, Metcalfe, McCrae, Atherton, Dalloway, Gilligan. Sub: Fagan.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell, bullock, Hand, Mead, Phillips, Reardon, Perrin, Kennedy, Searle, Holifield, Horseman. Sub: Alexander.

Referee: Mr K. J. Underwood (Romford).

Oxford City skipper John Woodley passed a late fitness test this afternoon after suffering head and back injuries in last week's 2-1 win over Tooting and Mitcham. City manager Maurice Kyle made two changes from that side, Bob McCrae coming into the striking line with Kevin Fagan as substitute.

Wycombe Wanderers' manager Brian Lee also made two changes from the FA Cup side last Saturday but lost the replay on Tuesday.

Former Oxford City player a knee injury and Dylan Evans was rested with Dave Bullock and Dave Alexander taking their places.

Former Oxford City player Micky Holifield lined up against his old club despite having played with a broken wrist in the two games against Middlesbrough.

Good moves

The Oxford City defence was forced into action in the opening minutes. Atherton, Cooper and Glass clearing well on the ground and Woodley jumping bravely to win a couple of mis-air clashes. But the traffic was by no means one way and City's Peter Dalloway, the two-goal hero from last week and Bob McCrae lost possession in the Wycombe penalty area after some good attacking moves.

Martin Gilligan was working well on the left wing getting the better of Gary Hand to float over a cross which goalkeeper John Maskell collected as Dalloway closed in.

After ten minutes Wycombe's Terry Reardon hit a good shot from 25 yards out that was blocked by Eric Metcalf making his 450th first team appearance for Oxford City.

After 15 minutes Gilligan had a good shot when he received a good ball from Neil Hartigan continuing the improvement shown in the last few weeks but the City winger had his shot deflected. Five minutes later Gilligan shot high over the bar from a Hartigan corner. Wycombe broke well and Steve Atherton made a good tackle to cut out a promising run by Keith Searle.

Wycombe should have been a goal ahead midway through the first half when Tony Horseman shot wide across

an open goal to lose the visitors' first real chance of the game.

City's energetic left winger Gilligan was in the thick of the action again in the 35th minute. Hartigan sent over yet another well-placed cross which Gilligan headed well. Maskell picked it up and was lucky to catch it at the second attempt.

Five minutes before half time Tony Horseman went through the City defence but was stopped from shooting by a well-timed tackle from Woodley.

Half-time: Oxford City 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Atherton continued to shine at the back for City as Wycombe started the second half with some concentrated attacking with Steve Perrin looking particularly dangerous.

From an Oxford free-kick, McCrae jumped well to head on Woodley's centre but then Gilligan found the Wycombe box too tightly packed to get in a clear shot.

City left back Andy Glass forced Maskell to make a save

at the near post and in the 53rd minute, Metcalf narrowly missed with a superb drive from 35 yards that skimmed the Wycombe crossbar.

Woodley came to the rescue once again in the 57th minute when he stopped a promising run by Micky Holifield.

Wycombe Wanderers took the lead with a scrambled goal in the 65th minute by MICK HOLLIFIELD after the City defence failed to cut out a through ball from Searle.

RESULT

OXFORD CITY 0
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1